URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ESHER AND THE DITTONS

TWENTY-FIRST

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1915.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District...	Acres 5,987
Rateable Value	£165,572
Estimated produce of a 1d. Rate	£550
Population, Census 1911	12,518
Estimated to middle of 1915, by Registrar General	12,911
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1911	2,753
Average number of persons per house, 1911 ...	4·5
Birth rate per 1,000 living (estimated population of 1914)	19·9
Average for three previous years	20·0
Death rate per 1,000 living	10·3
Average for three previous years...	10·25
Standardized death rate per 1,000 living ...	10·24
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 Births	22·3
Average Infant Mortality rate for three previous years	68·3
Death rate from Epidemic Diseases per 1,000 living	0·00
Average Death rate from Epidemic Diseases for three previous years	0·25
Number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)	14
Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 living ...	1·08
Number of Deaths from Cancer.	23
Death rate from Cancer per 1,000 living ...	1·85

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1915 (provisional figures).

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.		Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
	Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales	21·9	15·1	110
96 Great Towns, including London	22·8	15·6	117
148 Smaller Towns	21·6	14·0	114
England and Wales, less the 224 Towns	20·7	14·8	98
London	22·6	16·1	112
Esher and the Dittons ...	19·9	10·3	22·3

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THAMES DITTON,

May, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twenty-first annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the district.

The general sanitary state of the district remains practically the same as during the last few years. The systematic inspection of the whole district has been continued, and in consequence many defects have been remedied, especially in the cottage property. The following table shows a summary of the work that has been done not only in connection with the Public Health Act but also under the Factories and Workshops Act, and under the Regulations for the control of Dairies and Cowsheds.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of Inspections made, Notices served, Nuisances abated and other Works and Improvements

carried out during the year, under the Public Health and other Acts, exclusive of Inspections under the Housing, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of Inspections—

Dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	412
Re-inspections arising out of the same, and visits to works in progress	247
Inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act	159
Slaughterhouse Inspections	47
Inspections of Meat and other Foods ...	72
Inspections under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations	146
Visits and inspections at houses let in Lodgings	44
Inspections at Schools	24
Miscellaneous Inspections	65

(2) Notices served—

Number of Statutory Notices (affecting eight houses)	2
Number of informal written Notices ...	57
Number of verbal intimations	60

(3) Number of premises disinfected 54

(4) Results of Inspections and Notices—

Cottages and other dwellings cleansed and re-decorated throughout	17
Rooms in dwellings whitewashed, re-papered, &c., as required (number of dwellings)	40
Existing paving repaired	8

The large number of inspections such as are enumerated in this table naturally lead to the discovery of many defects, &c., which need remedying. In the next table I have tabulated the various insanitary defects which

have been dealt with, and in the majority of cases been put right. Special attention has been given to house drains, rain water pipes and gutters, besides many cases of damp walls have also been dealt with and remedied.

Miscellaneous Nuisances abated under the Factory and Workshops Act	5
Workrooms, &c., cleansed under the Factory Act	12
New surface water drains	3
Soil drains examined and tested	32
Soil drains entirely relaid	3
Soil drains partly relaid	2
Soil drains repaired	8
Blocked drains cleared	34
House roofs repaired (number of houses) ...	35
Rain water gutters, repairs and new (number of houses)	38
Rain water pipes disconnected and trapped	2
Water closets repaired, new flushing tanks, etc.	13
Scullery sinks repaired	2
New sanitary dust bins	3
Lids to water storage cisterns	1
Windows repaired	1
General house repairs	25
Accumulations of refuse removed	6
Animal nuisances abated	6
Overcrowding abated	2
Complaints received and investigated ...	62
Water Board Notices received and dealt with	12
Damp walls remedied	13
Water supply in lieu of well	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	10

Special inspections were made with a view to seeing that the provisions of the Bye-laws for Houses let in

Lodgings were being observed, and in four instances it was necessary to serve statutory notices before those responsible would do the prescribed limewashing and cleansing.

The houses occupied by the working classes are for the most part kept in a sanitary state, but it is only by constant inspection and re-inspection that the various works are done. The paving of back yards has been proceeding, but at a less rapid pace owing to the difficulties of getting material and finding labour. Accumulations of rubbish near cottages form a frequent source of complaint, and every endeavour is made to keep these spaces free from any collections which might cause nuisances. Strong efforts also have been made to remedy dampness in walls or floors, and in many cases the sanitary condition of houses has been much improved.

Elementary Schools.—No structural alterations have been made in any of the schools in the district. I have paid visits to each from time to time, and found them all in good sanitary state. They are all well kept, and all the lavatories are properly cleansed and well flushed.

On one occasion only was it necessary to advise closure of a school, and in this case the Infants department at Esher had to be closed on account of an outbreak of measles.

The following is a list of the exclusions as reported to me:—

	Thames Ditton.	Long Ditton.	Esher.	Claygate
Mumps	—	—	—	57
Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	11
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	36	1
Ringworm	—	4	—	—
Verminous cases ...	3	—	—	2

Special visits and enquiries were made in dealing with the verminous cases, and in each I formed the opinion that the condition of the child was due to nothing less than sheer neglect and indifference. Although there was dirt and evidence of neglect in the homes yet there were no insanitary states in the houses which called for interference on the part of the Council.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—All the Cowsheds and Dairies have been regularly inspected during the year, and the various requirements of the Regulations for the control of these places have been complied with. Part of the supply of milk used is produced in the district and is certainly produced under good conditions of sanitation. I have not yet had occasion to investigate the conditions under which imported milk is produced, but hope that the same attention is given to the sanitary state of the cowsheds and other surroundings of the cattle.

The quarterly inspection of the cattle by the Veterinary Surgeon has resulted in the discovery of one animal in such a state of health that it was thought desirable to remove and isolate it. This was done and eventually the owner disposed of it outside the district. The following is a list of the registered Cowkeepers and Milksellers in the district:—

LIST OF REGISTERED COWKEEPERS IN THE DISTRICT.

Mr. H. Hanson ...	Ember Lane ...	Thames Ditton
Mr. B. Keen	Manor Farm ...	,,
Miss E. J. Keele ...	Imber Cross ...	,,
Mr. A. J. Keen ...	Manor Road Farm	,,
Mrs. S. Goodrich ...	Upper Couchmore	,,
Miss Taylor	St. Leonard's Farm	,,
Mr. F. J. Chirgwin ...	Couchmore, Ditton Marsh	,,

Mr. R. Howard ...	Lower Green ...	Esher.
Capt. E. W. Seymour ...	Claremont Farm	,,
Mr. Rhodes Cobb ...	Lower Green ...	,,
Mr. W. H. Beile ...	West End Farm	,,
Messrs. Moon & Sons ..	Vale Farm ...	Claygate.
Messrs. Moon & Sons ...	Manor Farm ...	,,
Mr. J. P. Roberts ...	Horridon Farm	,,
Mr. R. Brice	Green Farm ...	,,
Mr. H. Stent	Slough Farm ...	,,
Mr. H. R. Broom ...	Hill Farm ...	,,

LIST OF REGISTERED MILKSELLERS.

Mr. F. Hanson ...	High Street ...	Thames Ditton
Mr. A. J. Keen ...	Weston Green...	,,
Mr. E. Tekell	Summer Road...	,,
Mr. C. Moon	Window's Bridge	Long Ditton
Mr. W. Beile	High Street ...	Esher
Mrs. H. Lay	Lower Green ...	,,
Mr. H. B. Bantoft ...	Portsmouth Road	,,
Mr. J. P. Roberts ...	The Parade ...	Claygate
Mr. J. P. Roberts ...	Esher Station Road	Thames Ditton

Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses.—The bake-houses and slaughter-houses, of which there are seven of each in the district, have been kept under observation, and every care is taken by the occupants to keep them in a clean and sanitary state. The bake-houses are regularly white-washed and the slaughter-houses are kept free from any accumulations which might cause nuisance.

The various places where food is stored or prepared for use are regularly inspected and nothing was found which rendered interference necessary. In no case was any food found exposed for sale or for use as food which was unfit for use.

The following are the results of analyses made under the direction of the County Council, by whom the Sales of Food and Drugs Acts are administered.

Articles.	Analysed.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.
Milk ...	31	31	—	—	—
Butter ...	11	11	—	—	—
Spirits ...	3	3	—	—	—

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

In accordance with Article V. of these regulations I give below a table showing the work that has been done during the past year.

Return of Work Done During 1915.

a. Number of houses inspected	89
b. Number of houses considered so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	11
c. Number of houses in group *b* which were made fit for habitation without formal representation to the Local Authority ...	0
d. Number of formal representations to the Local Authority with the view to the issue of closing orders	11
e. Number of closing orders made	11
f. Number of houses represented as unfit for habitation which were made fit without closing orders	0
g. Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the issue of closing orders	5

h. Number of houses voluntarily closed by owners 0

i. Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners 0

In the return of work done last year there were 24 houses in one terrace which had been represented as so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. These have been since then thoroughly repaired and rendered fit for occupation, and very much improved.

The following table shows the actual houses which have been inspected:—

DETAILS OF DWELLINGS SCHEDULED AND INSPECTED.

Thames Ditton Ward.

Nos. 9 & 10	Gladstone Place, Summer Road	2	
Nos. 1 to 24	Alexandra Terrace, Clump Estate	24	
Nos. 1 & 2	Thames View, Clump Estate ...	2	
Nos. 1 & 2	Park View, Clump Estate ...	2	
Nos. 1 to 4	Weston Road, Weston Green ...	4	
Nos. 11, 12 & 13	Weston Road, Weston Green	3	
Nos. 1 to 5	Sheath's Cottages, Weston Green	5	
Nos. 1 to 6	Willow Cottages, Weston Green..	6	
Nos. 1 to 6	Long's Cottages, Weston Green...	6	
		—	54

Long Ditton Ward.

Nos. 1 & 2	Vine Cottages, Rushett	2	
Nos. 1 & 2	Blake's Cottages, Rushett ..	2	
Nos. 1 & 2	Tenterden Cottages, Rushett ...	2	
May Cottage, Rushett		1	
Nos. 1 to 10	Providence Place, South Bank ...	10	
No. 1A	Providence Place, South Bank	1	
		—	18

Esher Ward.

No. 1A Park Road, Esher	1	
	—	1

Claygate Ward.

Nos. 1 to 14 Norfolk Road, Claygate	14	
Nos. 1 & 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Claygate ...	2	
	--	16
Total Inspected ...		89

Schedule of Notices served, Sanitary Improvements, &c., resulting from the above-mentioned Inspections and including works carried out in connection with inspections made in previous year.

	Thames Ditton.	Long Ditton.	Esher.	Claygate.	Totals.
No. of Statutory Notices	24	0	0	0	24
Informal written Notices	21	10	1	7	39
Closing Orders determined	8	0	0	0	8
No. of Dwellings scheduled and inspected under the Housing, &c., Act	54	18	1	16	89
Reinspections and visits to works in progress	598	119	4	94	815
Cottages redecorated, &c., throughout ...	51	3	1	2	57
Ditto partly (certain rooms as required) ...	15	13	0	7	35
Yards, passages, &c., paved and drained ...	64	23	1	10	98
Yards, existing paving repaired	0	5	0	0	5
New surface drains to yards, passages, &c.	30	13	0	0	43
Soil drains examined and tested	30	1	5	14	50

	Thames Ditton.	Long Ditton.	Esher.	Claygate.	Totals.
Soil drains entirely relaid	8	0	0	0	8
Soil drains partly relaid	25	0	0	2	27
Soil drains repaired ...	8	12	0	0	20
Blocked drains cleared	15	1	0	12	28
House roofs repaired ...	60	13	1	11	85
Rain water gutters and pipes repaired (No. of houses)	78	17	1	5	101
Rain water pipes disconnected and trapped (No. of houses) ...	0	11	0	0	11
Water closets cleansed, repaired, &c. ...	57	9	0	12	78
W.C. flushing tanks (new and repairs) ...	25	0	0	0	25
New sinks or repairs to cottage sinks, &c. ...	60	8	0	4	72
New sanitary dust bins	28	5	0	0	33
Water cisterns provided with new lids, cisterns adjusted, &c. ...	29	6	0	0	35
Windows dealt with, made to open properly, enlarged, &c. (No. of houses)	43	1	0	0	44
General house repairs of various kinds, dilapidations made good, &c. (No. of houses)...	35	16	0	0	51
Accumulations of refuse and other rubbish removed	4	6	0	1	11
Outbuildings repaired...	2	2	0	0	4
New water closets erected	5	0	0	0	5

This schedule gives in considerable detail the various kinds of defect that has been met with during the inspection of scheduled property. Attention is still being given to the paving of yards and other open spaces near

cottages, new paving having been laid in 98 cases, and the existing paving repaired in 5. The very wet autumn made it necessary to pay special attention to the state of roofs and rainwater pipes, 197 houses being inspected and dealt with. Drainage and the examination and testing of drains forms another important item in this schedule. There can be no doubt that the amount of sanitary work that has been done tends to improve the health and general comfort of the dwellers in the district.

The next two tables show the results of the working of the Housing and Town Planning Act in dealing with houses which have been found unfit for occupation.

Particulars of Houses Closed, Demolished, etc., through the operation of the Housing etc., Act, up to December 31st, 1915 :—

Name and Locality.	Closed.	Demolished.	Remarks.
Nos. 1 to 3, Sidney Cottages, West End, Esher	March, 1911	August, 1912	3 New Cottages built on site
No. 4, Sidney Cottages, West End, Esher	August, 1912	August, 1912	1 New Cottage built on site
Nos. 1 & 2, Rosam Cottages, Claygate	December, 1911	July, 1912	2 New Cottages built on site
Nos. 1 to 4, Robertson's Cottages, High Street, Thames Ditton	February, 1912	October, 1912	Site now vacant
Rythe Cottage, Thorkhill Road	March, 1912	March, 1913	New House erected on site
Nos. 1 to 4, Ditton Hill Cottages	March, 1912	March, 1913	Site now vacant
No. 2, Batchelar's Cottages, Hare Lane	—	—	Made fit after Closing Order
Vine Cottage, Weston Park Road, Thames Ditton	November, 1913	May, 1914	2 New Cottages, built on site
Nos. 1 & 2, Black Cottages, Red Lane, Claygate	January, 1914	—	Now unoccupied
Nos. 5, 6 & 7, Admiral's Row, Weston Green	November, 1914	—	Closing Orders determined Sept. 1915, after houses made fit.
No. 1, Sheath's Cottages, Weston Green	May, 1915	—	Closing Order determined in October, after house made fit

Name and Locality.	Closed.	Demolished.	Remarks.
Nos. 1 to 4, Mathew's Cottages, High Street, Thames Ditton	July, 1915	—	Closing Orders determined in December after houses made fit
Nos. 1 to 6, Willow Cottages, Weston Green	July, 1915	—	Demolition Order under consideration at end of year.

Details from the Housing Record Books.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year.	No. of Houses Inspected.	No. of Houses found without defects.	No. of Houses at which defects were remedied.	No. of Houses Demolished.	No. remaining Closed.	No. of Houses at which works outstanding at close of year.
1910	58	3	51	4	—	—
1911	105	4	94	7	—	—
1912	149	13	132	4	—	—
1913	111	2	106	1	2	—
1914	107	2	43	0	—	62 (a)
1915	89	nil	125 (a)	0	6	26 (b)

Note.—(aa) Includes outstanding defects remedied during 1915.
(a) Including 6 houses under Closing Orders.

The houses referred in column 6 (*b*) are as follows:—

1 to 6 Long's Cottages, Weston Green	6
1 to 6 Willow Cottages, Weston Green	6
1 to 5 Sheath's Cottages, Weston Green	5
1 to 4 Weston Road, Weston Green	4
1 to 2 Park View, Alexandra Road	2
1 to 2 Thames View, Alexandra Road	2
1 Frederick Villas, Long Ditton	1
Total ...	26

There have only been seven new houses built during the year and of these one was a cottage suitable for working class dwelling. There are some cottages rented at

under 10/- a week which are unoccupied and only very few cases of over-crowding have been discovered in the past year.

Factories, Workshops, &c.—All the places which come under the Factories and Workshops Acts have been kept under observation, and all have been kept in a satisfactory manner.

Details of Inspections and Works carried out under the Factory and Workshops Act, for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

Number and descriptions of premises on Register:—

Factories	6
Factory Bakehouse	1
Retail Bakehouses	6
Workshops (Miscellaneous)	28
Workplaces (other than Workshops)	17
Workshop Laundries	8
Cottage Laundries	23
Dressmaker's Workrooms	14
Total on Register ...	103
Number of Inspections made during the year	159

Notices of Occupation by H.M. Inspector of Factories	nil.
Statutory Notices	nil.
Informal written Notices	7
Verbal intimations *re* works required	9
Workshops and workrooms cleansed, lime-washed, etc.	12
Yards paved	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	3

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The arrangements with the Clinical Research Association have been continued and the following is a list of the work that has been done:—

	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	
Examination for Diphtheria					
Positive	1	2	7	3	13
Negative	6	4	17	22	49
,, ,, Tuberculosis					
Positive	1	—	1	—	2
Negative	4	—	7	1	12
,, ,, Enteric Fever					
Positive	1	—	—	—	1
Negative	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, Cerebro-Spinal Fever					
Positive	—	—	—	—	—
Negative	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	13	6	33	26	78

On two occasions diphtheria anti-toxin was applied for and used with success, as both patients made good recoveries.

There were 62 notifications received of cases of illness which are notifiable under the Notification Act, and the various Orders of the Local Government Board, these are given in full in Table 2 at the end of this report.

Twenty-seven patients were sent in to the Tolworth Hospital for isolation; 30 were cases of diphtheria, 6 of scarlet fever, and 1 enteric fever.

In the following table I have tabulated the notifications under monthly headings:—

	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other forms Tuberculosis
January	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
March	—	1	—	1	—	3	1
April	4	—	2	1	—	—	—
May	7	—	2	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
July	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
August	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
November	2	—	1	—	—	2	1
December	2	—	—	—	—	2	1
Totals	25	3	7	2	—	14	4

One case of cerebro-spinal fever was notified in March, and five cases of polio-myelitis were notified in September.

SMALL-POX.

There were no cases of this disease reported. In connection with this I usually give a table showing the result of vaccination done throughout the year, and in the table below I have added the figures from the two previous years.

	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of births registered	251	279	267
Number vaccinated	170	151	163
Insusceptible	2	3	3
Died unvaccinated	6	11	4
Number of exemptions	50	60	58
Number postponed and time unexpired	11	4	31
Left district or not found	13	4	8
Cases unaccounted for, under age, &c.	—	27	19
Percentage of successful vaccinations among births registered	60·9	59·9	61·04
Percentage of exemptions among births registered	17·9	23·8	21·7

This return shows some slight improvement, as there is an increase in the percentage of vaccinations and corresponding diminution in the number of exemptions. Still 21 per cent. of the children born have escaped vaccination and are thereby unprotected against the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 7 cases of this illness reported as compared with 11 in the previous year. No connection could be traced between any of these cases, as they were all quite separated from each other, and were in different parts of the district. They were fortunately all mild in character and all except one were treated in hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

The cases of this disease were the most numerous of any that were notified. With the exception of three isolated cases the district was free until nearly the end of April, when a house in Claygate was infected, two maids having the disease, and two children were found to have the germ in their throats. I was not able to ascertain in what manner the infection was brought into the house.

Early in May a case was notified from a dairy farm in Claygate. When I visited the place I found that a girl had recently come into service from a village near Newmarket, that she admitted that she had left her sister ill with some throat trouble, and that she herself had had a sore throat. On further investigation I found the diphtheria bacillus in this girl's throat, and isolated her in hospital. Unfortunately before she came under observation she had visited certain houses and in each of them cases of diphtheria afterwards occurred. In all I traced five cases to infection from this case, and I believe there were four or five traced to the same source in the Surbiton District. More than two months later two more cases were reported from the same farm, but there was

no connection between the two series. Three other cases were notified from Esher, and these I traced to infection brought here by a boy who came from an infected area in Portsmouth. All these cases were mild ones, and though in some recovery was delayed, yet none proved fatal.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases of this disease only were notified; the first was that of a man who had just returned from a Spanish port where he had been detained some time, and had been feeling ill all the way home. He was sent to hospital and made a good recovery. The second was that of a man who was employed in London, and I was unable to trace the manner in which he caught the infection.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Fourteen cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, and four of tubercle in other parts were notified. Of the pulmonary cases one was sent to hospital, and six have been admitted to sanatoria, and one case of tuberculosis other than pulmonary has been admitted to hospital.

Notified cases of these diseases are visited as soon as possible after the receipt of the notification and directions given as to precautionary measures, and in inspection made of the condition of the premises, and any nuisances noted and dealt with afterwards. Disinfection is also done as soon after the house is vacated and instructions given as to the cleansing of the rooms and contents.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

A case of cerebro-spinal meningitis was notified in March and proved fatal. All contacts were isolated until proved free from the organism, and no further cases followed. Very material help was given by the County M.O.H. and his staff in dealing with this case.

Also five cases of infantile paralysis (acute poliomyelitis) were reported in September; one was notified from Thames Ditton and the remainder from Esher. Two of these were members of the same family, and the others both lived in the same road, but beyond this I was unable to trace any connection between them. All the patients recovered, but three have been left with some partial paralysis, which in each case is improving.

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

The notification of Births Act came into force on September 1st, and by the end of the year 73 births were notified.

It had not been possible to make any arrangement for visiting the homes of children, and the matter has been under the consideration of the Council since then, and having regard to the low rate of infant mortality it has been decided that it is not necessary as yet to make special arrangements for visiting under this Act.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population for the year has been supplied by the Registrar General, and has been calculated in a special manner from figures obtained from the National Register. The ratio of the total population, less the males aged 15 to 65 years, to the number of females aged 15 to 65 years, was calculated for each district, and this ratio was applied to the number of females on the National Register. The resulting product was added to the number of males aged 15 to 65 years and this has been taken as the estimated Civil Population for the year. This figure for the district is 12,911. The births registered are those of the whole population and this figure is not suitable for an estimation of the birth rate, which has been calculated on the estimated population of 1914.

Deaths among the military have not been included in the tables, and were one of a man aged 21 from suicide and two accidents to men aged 49 and 48 years: these were accidents to men who were engaged in guarding the main line of the L. & S.W. Railway. The birth rate of 19·9 shows a slight improvement on the previous year which was 18·8. The average for the three previous years was 20 per 1,000 living in the district.

The nett deaths belonging to the district numbered 110 or a rate of 8·52, the average for the three previous years being 7·90. The deaths of infants under one year of age were 6, or an infant mortality figure of 22·3 per 1,000 births registered in the district. Tuberculous diseases accounted for 14 deaths of which 9 were due to consumption; the number of deaths from cancer was high, namely, 23 or a rate of 1·78 per 1,000.

MILITARY IN THE DISTRICT.

There have been military stationed at Esher during almost the whole of the year, and on many occasions advice has been given in dealing with minor cases of illness, also with cases of scabies and a few of infectious disease. Several of these were of doubtful nature and were isolated in hospital until the nature of the illness was decided. One case of diphtheria was notified and treated in hospital.

I take the opportunity of again thanking my colleagues the Clerk, the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances for their ready help, which I have obtained on many occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. SENIOR, M.B., Cantab., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Thames Ditton.

January, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Esher and the Dittons.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report giving details of the various works and improvements carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year ending December 31st, 1915.

All necessary attention has been given to the carrying out of duties as set forth in the General Orders of the Local Government Board, which require inspection of the District to be made both systematically at certain periods and also at intervals as occasion may require, in order that the Inspector may keep himself informed of any nuisances whch may exist, and take the necessary steps to cause abatement of the same.

The total number of inspections and re-visits made during the year for general sanitary purposes amounted to 2,120, and included Inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District Act, 1909), the Public Health Acts, the Factory and Workshops Act, Dairy and Cowshed Regulations, &c., &c.

The result has been the accomplishment of many useful and in some cases permanent improvements. These have, for the most part, been carried out by the respective Owners in compliance with ordinary preliminary notices, the number of these amounting to 96 during the year. It was also necessary for the Council to issue 26 Statutory Notices which were mostly in connection with works under the Housing Act.

The full details of work done, inspections made, nuisances abated, etc., which are set forth at the end of this Report will form a comprehensive summary of the year's work under review.

INSPECTION AND TESTING OF PRIVATE HOUSE DRAINS.

The number of private house drains examined and tested during the year amounted to 82, as follows:—

By authority from the Council in connection with inspections under the Housing, &c., Act ...	50
Upon complaint of nuisance, after infectious illness, or for other reasons	32
	82

At forty premises soil drains were either partly or entirely re-laid as follows:—

Nos. 4, 5, 6 & 7, Admiral's Row, Weston Green	(Entirely)	4	
Nos. 1 to 4, Matthews Cottages, High Street, Thames Ditton	,,	4	
Lyndhurst, Ember-court Road, Thames Ditton	,,	1	
The Grange, Beaconsfield Road, Claygate	,,	1	
Hill Farm, Long Ditton	,,	1	
		—	11
Nos. 1 to 24, Queen's Terrace, The Clump Estate	(Partly)	24	
Nos. 9 & 10, Gladstone Terrace, Summer Road	,,	2	
West View, Weston Green	,,	1	
The Laurels, Angel Road, Thames Ditton	(Extension)	1	
The Yellow House, Esher Park ...	,,	1	
		—	29
Total ...			40

In addition the total number of soil drains repaired at various premises amount to	28
The number of new surface drains provided in connection with the paving of back yards, side passages, &c., amounted to	46

The above drains were dealt with chiefly under the provisions of Section 41 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

In all cases of relaying, the work is carried out under modern conditions, in accordance with the bye-laws relating to re-drainage.

In all cases, where possible, surface drainage is provided for water from roofs and yard paving, in order to exclude the water from the sewers, thereby avoiding extra pumping at the outfall works, especially during rainy weather.

The greater number of drains re-laid, repaired, or otherwise dealt with were those belonging to small properties, mostly on the combined system, and in connection with the many problems which present themselves in dealing with the same, I am much indebted to the Council's Surveyor for his ready co-operation and assistance at all times when required.

THE PAVING OF BACK YARDS, SIDE PASSAGES, ETC.

As a result of inspections made of properties scheduled under the Housing, &c., Act, continued progress has been made with regard to getting the back yards and side passages of cottages paved and provided with surface drainage, and during the year 100 dwellings were so dealt with.

In the event of Owners refusing to carry out this work when it is deemed necessary, it may be enforced or carried out by the Council, and the cost recovered under section 25 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. It became necessary in the case of Nos. 1 to 7 Admiral's Row, Weston Green, for the Council to pave and drain the back yards owing to the different owners failing to agree to do it themselves.

It is usual to ask owners to provide sufficient paving to keep the entrances to back doors and domestic offices in a dry and sanitary condition, with due regard to the size and position of the part to be paved.

Cement concrete rendered over is always given the preference over tar paving and consequently very little of the latter has been used.

In eight cases where existing paving had become defective, suitable repairs were carried out.

The following is a list of the premises where paving of yards, &c., received attention during the year:—

THAMES DITTON.

1 & 2, Gladstone Place, Summer Road	...	2
11 & 12, Weston Road, Weston Green	...	2
1 to 5, Sheath's Cottages, Weston Green	...	5
1 to 24, Queen's Terrace, The Clump Estate		24
1 to 24, Alexandra Terrace, The Clump Estate		24
1, Long's Cottages, Weston Green ...	...	1
4 to 7, Admiral's Row, Weston Green	..	4
1 to 4 Mathew's Cottages, Thames Ditton	...	4
		— 66

Long Ditton.

1 & 2, Vine Cottages, Rushett	2	
May Cottage, Rushett	1	
1 & 2, Tenterden Cottages, Rushett	2	
1 to 10, Providence Place, South Bank ...	10	
1 to 4, Myrtle Cottages, Rushett	4	
3, Ivy Cottages, Rushett	1	
5 & 6, Home Cottages, Rushett	2	
2, Frederick Villas, Rushett	1	
	—	23

Esher.

No. 1a, Park Road, Esher	1	
	—	1

Claygate.

Nos. 1 to 10, Norfolk Road, Claygate.	10	
	—	10
Total ...		100

As showing the progress made in this work, I quote the number of yards which have been paved during the past six years:

During the year	1910	Yards	paved	38
,, ,,	1911	,,	,,	123
,, ,,	1912	,,	,,	125
,, ,,	1913	,,	,,	134
,, ,,	1914	,,	,,	81
,, ,,	1915	,,	,,	100
Total during the six years				600

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS SCHEDULED UNDER THE HOUSING, &c., ACT.

During the year 89 houses were inspected under this Act as follows:—

Thames Ditton	54
Long Ditton	18
Esher	1
Claygate	16

All particulars of the inspections made have been entered into the books provided for the purpose, in accordance with section 17 of the Act and the Regulations of the Local Government Board issued in relation thereto.

Each of these 89 houses was found to require sanitary improvements of some kind or other, according to the manner in which they had been looked after or neglected, and in most cases the necessary works received attention during the year.

At 62 houses upon whose owners notices had been served and sanitary works were outstanding at the end of December, 1914, the premises have been constantly re-inspected, and I am glad to be able to report that all the outstanding works have been carried out.

Some of the improvements were of considerable magnitude, such as paving and re-drainage, damp proof courses, cement rendering of outer walls, relaying old floors, &c., whilst others were of a more simple character, such as re-decorating and small repairs.

The greater number of these improvements have been brought about by ordinary preliminary notices. 24 Statutory notices were issued including closing orders with respect to eleven houses.

Five of these have been determined and six remain undetermined.

Three closing orders were also determined which related to properties inspected the previous year.

THE DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

The Register required to be kept under the above Orders contains at the present time the names of 26 persons who are engaged in the public milk supply, classified as follows:—

Person who keep farms for the grazing of cows in connection with the milk trade	17
Who keep shops exclusively for the sale of milk and other dairy produce ...	7
Who sell small quantities of milk from general shops	2
Total ...	26

The above premises have been regularly inspected, the total of visits amounting to 146.

The sanitary requirements relating to lime-washing, daily cleaning up and the removal of refuse and manure have received proper attention, and there has been no occasion for me to report any breach of the regulations to the Council.

During the year two persons who were registered, one as a cowkeeper and the other as a milkseller, have discontinued their trade and their names have been removed from the register.

The following works have been carried out by Owners after due Notice:—

(1) Increased accommodation for cows, drainage improvements and some new paving laid down.
(2) Premises entirely re-drained and paving repairs.
(3) Increased accommodation for cows.
(4) Increased accommodation for cows and improved manure receptacle.

The foregoing alterations and improvements were carried out in accordance with the Dairy and Cowshed Regulations.

With reference to the quarterly inspection of milch cows made by the Council's Veterinary Inspector, only one doubtful animal was notified to me as requiring to be kept under observation, and this was done until the animal was removed from the herd by the owner and disposed of outside the district.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Each of the seven slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and the occupiers have taken every care that the places should be rendered as unobjectionable as possible by being kept regularly in a clean and sanitary condition.

Lime-washing of walls, &c., has been carried out from time to time, and in no case has it been necessary to go beyond a verbal intimation to occupiers in order to get this work carried out.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Most of the meat sold in the District is killed elsewhere and brought in from the Metropolitan and other meat markets, in which case it is inspected before being brought here.

A fair number of the smaller animals are killed and dressed in the local slaughter-houses, and such of these as were inspected were found to be of good quality.

A total of 72 inspections were made of various foods either exposed for sale or in stores. Nothing liable to seizure as being unfit for human consumption has been found upon any of the premises inspected.

BAKEHOUSES.

The seven bakehouses situated within the District have been periodically inspected and were as a rule found in compliance with the requirements of the Factory Act under which they are governed.

The half-yearly lime-washing of walls, &c., has in all cases been carried out at the appointed time.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received amounted to 62 and related to smells, blocked drains, verminous school children, foul accumulations, animals improperly kept, &c., &c.

Each complaint with date, particulars and subsequent action taken was duly recorded in the register kept for the purpose.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD.

Notification of Water Supply Withdrawn From Houses.

12 Notifications were received from the Water Board as to water supplies having been cut off from houses owing to non-payment of rent, or for other reasons. The usual inspections were made and steps taken to prevent

insanitation existing through lack of a proper water supply.

COLLECTION OF ASHES AND HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

The collection of household refuse is carried out weekly by the Council's own men. Very few complaints have been received as to non-removal, and more often than not these, upon investigation, were found to be through no fault of the collectors, who cannot always gain admission to premises, owing to occupiers being out, or for other reasons.

Thirty-six new portable sanitary dust-bins have, during the year, been provided by owners after notice in accordance with section 36 of the Public Health Act.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES AFTER INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.

Disinfection was carried out at 54 premises after cases of infectious disease after the removal of patients to either the Isolation Hospital or Sanatorium or after the death of a patient.

The method of disinfection usually adopted is to spray the room, furniture, bedding, clothing, &c., with a powerful sprayer and afterwards fumigate the rooms, &c., with formalin gas.

Owing to scarlet fever, the Thames Ditton Girls' Schoolrooms were thoroughly disinfected.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, URINALS, &c.

The urinals attached to licensed premises have been inspected from time to time and their condition noted, also the sanitary convenience belonging to the elementary schools and railway stations. In some cases it was

necessary to ask for more frequent flushing, and my requests for this to be done have always received attention.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

44 visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year, and at 7 of the houses cleaning, white-washing and distempering of certain rooms was carried out as prescribed by the bye-laws.

It was necessary for the Council to serve statutory notices with respect to 4 of the dwellings before the work was carried out.

SCHEDULE SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

under the Public Health Acts, The Housing Act, Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations and other Statutes and Bye-laws in force, together with the total number of nuisances abated and General Sanitary Works carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1915.

Number of dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	412
Re-inspections to works in progress	247
Number of dwellings inspected under the Housing, &c., Act	89
Re-inspections to works in progress	815
Inspections and re-visits to premises under the Factory and Workshops Act	159
Inspections of Slaughter-houses	47
Ditto of meat and other foods	72
Ditto Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	146
Inspection of Lodging Houses	44
Miscellaneous Inspections	89
Statutory Notices served	26
Informal written Notices	96

Verbal Intimations *re* miscellaneous nuisances ...	60
Houses cleansed and re-decorated throughout ...	74
Ditto partly (Rooms dealt with as required) ...	75
Yards and passages paved, drained, &c.	100
Existing paving repaired	13
New surface drains	46
Soil drains examined and tested	82
Soil drains entirely relaid	11
Soil drains partly relaid	29
Soil drains repaired	28
Blocked drains cleared	62
Defective roofs repaired (number of houses) ...	120
Defective eaves, gutters, down pipes, &c., repaired (number of houses)	139
Rain water pipes disconnected and trapped ...	13
Water closets cleansed, repaired, &c.	91
Ditto flushing tanks renewed or repaired	38
Scullery sinks renewed, repaired or improved ...	74
New sanitary dust-bins	36
Water storage cisterns, repairs, readjustments, &c.	36
Windows enlarged, repaired or made to open (number of houses)	45
General repairs to houses, dilapidations made good, &c. (number of houses)	76
Air bricks attended to, renewed or cleaned out (number of houses)	51
Various accumulations of refuse removed	17
Animals improperly kept: Nuisances abated ...	6
Overcrowding abated (number of cases)	2
Outbuildings repaired	4
New water closets erected	5
Damp walls remedied	13
Constant water supply to houses	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	10
Complaints of nuisances received and investigated	62
Water Company's Notices *re* water supply withdrawn from houses received and attended to ...	12
Number of premises disinfected as required ...	54

In conclusion I desire to express my grateful thanks for the continued support received from the Sanitary Committee and the Council in the discharge of my multifarious duties.

My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer of Health and fellow Officers for their unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. C. OVER, Assoc. R. San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

TABLE I.—Esher and The Dittons.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	12,290	254	—	20·6	98	7·9	—	19	18	70	117	9·5
1911	12,593	265	271	21·5	103	8·17	3	35	20	73·8	135	10·72
1912	12,996	254	258	19·8	114	8·2	3	27	28	108	138	10·6
1913	13,199	279	283	21·4	104	7·8	1	30	13	45·9	133	10·08
1914	13,501	252	254	18·8	105	7·7	13	45	13	51·2	137	10·07
1915	12,911	267	269	*19·9	110	8·52	16	59	6	22·3	133	10·3

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5,978.

Total population at all ages, 12,518. Total families or separate occupiers, 2,895. } Census, 1911.

* Estimated on population estimated to middle of 1914.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1915, Esher and the Dittons.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in Each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.													
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher.	Clayg'te			Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
Small-pox ...															
Cholera (C)															
Plague (P.)															
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	25		1	14	8	2			1	4	9	11			20
Erysipelas ...	3						1	2	1		1	1			
Scarlet Fever ...	7			3	3	1			4	1	1	1			6
Typhus Fever ...															
Enteric Fever ..	2					1	1		2						1
Relapsing Fever (R)															
Continued Fever (C)															
Puerperal Fever...	1					1					1				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1						1			1					
Poliomyelitis ...	5		3	2					1		4				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum															
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14		1		4	8	1		8	2	3	1			
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4		2	1		1			3		1				
Totals	62		7	20	15	14	4	2	20	8	20	14			27

TABLE III.—Esher and The Dittons.

Causes of, and ages at, Death during the Year 1915.

1. Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District. 2 All ages.	3 Under 1.	4 1 & under 2.	5 2 & under 5.	6 5 & under 15.	7 15 & under 25.	8 25 & under 45.	9 45 & under 65.	10 65 & upwards.	11. Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
All Causes { Certified ... Uncertified	133	6	1	5	3	4	13	39	62	5
Enteric Fever ..										
Small-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet fever ...										
Whooping-cough...										
Diphtheria & Croup										
Influenza	1							1		
Erysipelas										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	9		1				4	1	3	
Tuberculous Meningitis	2			2						
Other tuberculous diseases	3			1				1	1	
Cancer, malignant disease	23							10	13	
Rheumatic fever ...	1							1		
Meningitis ...	2				1			1		
Organic H'rt Disease	16				1		3	3	9	
Bronchitis... ...	16							7	9	
Pneumonia (all f'ms)	8	1		1			1	4	1	
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1						1			
Diarrhœa & Enteritis										
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	3					2		1		2
Cirrhosis of liver ...										
Alcoholism ...										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease...	4							2	2	
Puerperal fever ...										
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition										
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	2	2								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide..	3	1				1		1		2
Suicide	4					1	1	2		
Other Defined Diseases	24			1			3	3	17	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	11	2			1			1	7	
Totals ...	133	6	1	5	3	4	13	39	62	5

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, 1.

TABLE IV.—Esher and The Dittons.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1915. Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1–2 Weeks.	2–3 Weeks.	3–4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1–3 Months.	3–6 Months.	6–9 Months.	9–12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified ... / Uncertified ...	3				3		1		2	6
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)										
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms) ...									1	1
Diarrhœa										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying ...							1			1
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations...	1				1					1
Premature Birth	1				1					1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus										
Other Causes	1				1				1	2
	3				3		1		2	6

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 267. Illegitimate, 2.

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants 6; Illegitimate ,, 0

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1915 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS.

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	20	—	None
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ...	101	7	—
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this Report)	38	—	—
TOTAL	159	7	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referrd to H.M. Insp'ct'r	
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of Cleanliness	12	12	None	None
Want of Ventilation	None	None	—	—
Overcrowding	None	None	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	2	2	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or Defective				
Not separate for Sexes				
... ..				
Offences under the Factory & Workshops Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in part 3 of this Report) ...				
Total	17	17	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3. Homework—Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the Year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	6
	Workshops (Miscellaneous)	28
	Work Places (other than Workshops) ...	17
	Workshop Laundries	8
	Cottage Laundries	23
	Dressmakers' Workrooms	14
Total number of workshops on Register		96

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133, 1901)		None.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5. 1901)	Notified by H.M. Inspector	
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.	None.
Other		None.
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—		
Certificates granted during the year		
In use at the end of the year		None.